

BOOK REVIEW

THE CERAMBYCIDAE OF NORTH AMERICA, by E. Gorton Linsley and John A. Chemsak. University of California Press, Berkeley & Los Angeles, 1961-1963.

Professor Linsley has performed a great service to entomologists, foresters, agriculturists and educators by preparing this series of nine informative volumes on the long-horned woodboring beetles. He has consolidated much of the knowledge accruing from twenty years of intensive study of these beetles, coordinated it with the findings of other entomologists, and composed taxonomic keys that will enable us to identify all of the known species and subspecies of cerambycids in this country. Dr. John A. Chemsak assisted in the preparation of Parts I through V, and is co-author of Parts VI through IX.

The books are beautifully illustrated with photographs, drawings, and distributional maps. Part I contains introductory remarks and a good general treatment of the biology, ecology, and behavior of adults as well as larval forms. Both the prehistoric and the modern geographical distribution of cerambycids are discussed, and probable phylogenetic relationships are very convincingly hypothesized. Four pages are devoted to a consideration of fossil records of these beetles and their significance. The last 35 pages are devoted to remarkable photographs of live beetles, mostly by Marjorie Statham and Edward S. Ross. These illustrations alone would be well worth the price of the volume!

The detailed taxonomic, morphological, distributional, biological and ecological treatment of the various subfamilies, tribes, genera, species and subspecies begins in Part II. The keys combine many technical, phylogenetically-important characters with the more superficial traits that enable the user to key out specimens without dissecting the specimens or examining their hind wings. Typical representatives of most genera are beautifully illustrated by accurate, artistic drawings by Frieda M. Abernathy and J. N. Knull. The known distribution of each taxon is clearly indicated on the full-page maps so carefully prepared by Mrs. Juanita M. Linsley. Part II completely covers the smaller subfamilies Parandrinae, Prioninae, Spondylinae and Aseminae, but three entire volumes are needed for the detailed treatment of subfamily Cerambycinae. Part III provides a taxonomic key to all 33 tribes of this subfamily but only gives details of eleven of those tribes. The remainder will be covered in Parts IV and V. Co-authors Linsley and Chemsak are still in the process of completing the manuscript for Part VI (subfamily Lepturinae) and Parts VII and VIII (subfamily Lamiinae). Part IX will consist of an extensive bibliography dealing with all North American Cerambycidae.

This entire set of books will be an indispensable part of every Coleopterist's library and should also be extremely valuable to all persons directly concerned with the activities of wood-inhabiting insects. Even persons without technical entomological knowledge will find that it is usually possible to make accurate identifications by utilizing the photographs and drawings in conjunction with the thorough discussions in the text. Professional entomologists will also be delighted with these volumes and for the first time will now have easy access to all the information needed for making correct determinations of long-horns. The authors are contributing a truly monumental monograph, and the University of California is rendering a great service by making these volumes so readily available. This set of references will surely constitute the most comprehensive treatment of any large family of beetles yet published in the United States. It will result in the intensified study of these beetles throughout North America, and should also serve as a model for other entomologists to emulate when preparing their own publications.—J. GORDON EDWARDS

LITERATURE NOTICE

A REVISION OF AFRICAN LAEMOPHLOEINAE (COLEOPTERA: CUCUJIDAE), by L. P. Lefkovitch. Bull. British Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Ent. 12(4):167-245, 18 figs., 1962.—Keys and descriptions of 16 genera and 86 species from the Ethiopian Region are provided for this difficult group. In 1959 the author revised the European members. Many of the former subgenera of *Laemophloeus* have been raised to generic status.